

**MINUTES OF THE JOINT EXECUTIVE APPROPRIATIONS
COMMITTEE MEETING
FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 2007, 5:15 P. M.
Room W135, West Office Building, State Capitol Complex**

Members Present:

Sen. Lyle Hillyard, Committee Co-Chair
Rep. Ron Bigelow, Committee Co-Chair
Sen. Curtis Bramble
Sen. Gene Davis
Sen. Mike Dmitrich
Sen. Dan Eastman
Sen. Pat Jones
Sen. Sheldon Killpack
Sen. Ed. Mayne
Pres. John Valentine
Rep. Ralph Becker
Rep. David Clark
Speaker Greg J. Curtis
Rep. Brad Dee
Rep. Brad King
Rep. David Litvack
Rep. Carol Spackman Moss
Rep. Gordon Snow

Sen. Peter Knudson, Vice-Chair
Rep. Becky Lockhart, Vice Chair

Staff Present:

John Massey, Legislative Fiscal Analyst
Bonnie Brinton, Secretary
Norda Shepard, Secretary

Others Present:

List of Others Present on File

Committee Co-Chair Bigelow called the meeting to order at 5:50 p.m.

1. Approval of Minutes

MOTION: Co-Chair Hillyard moved to approve the minutes of February 21, 2007.

The motion passed unanimously with Rep. Becker absent at the time of the vote.

2. Budget Issues

Co-Chair Bigelow announced that the meeting was being piped into Room #125 as an overflow if more room was needed. Co-Chair Hillyard drew attention to the purple and yellow handout which contained the proposed budget changes for the appropriation subcommittees. He noted that the proposed budget for Public Education was not included as this budget would be addressed separately at a later time.

MOTION: Co-Chair Hillyard moved to authorize the appropriation of additional funds for the items listed on the purple and the yellow sheets entitled, "Proposed Budget Changes - 2007 General Session" and dated today, February 23, 2007.

The motion passed unanimously with Rep. Becker absent at the time of the vote.

MOTION: Co-Chair Hillyard moved to approve all of the motions and intent language listed on pages 1-2 through 1-8 of the tan "Consolidated Motions" sheet dated February 23, 2007.

Rep. King requested that the motion be divided and that motion #3 on page 5 concerning the Medicaid Eligibility Systems transfer be considered separately.

MOTION: Co-Chair Hillyard moved to approve all of the motions and intent language listed on pages 1-2 through 1-8 of the tan "Consolidated Motions" sheet dated February 23, 2007 except number 3 concerning the Medicaid Eligibility Systems transfer.

The motion passed unanimously.

MOTION: Co-Chair Hillyard moved to consolidate the Medicaid Eligibility Systems by transferring \$13,995,700 Funding, 255 FTE, 10 vehicles, and 10 leased offices from the Department of Health to the Department of Workforce Services. Of that total, \$6,168,500 is from the General Fund, \$7,000,800 is from Federal Funds, \$810,300 is from Dedicated Credit Revenue and \$16,100 is from Revenue Transfers. Additionally, Workforce Services will bill the Department of Health for costs of determining eligibility for the Children's Health Insurance Program, estimated at about \$2,507,800. If further moved to appropriate \$565,000 one-time from the General Fund Restricted - Medicaid Restricted Account to the Department of Health for lost federal indirect cost funding until the new federal fiscal funding formula is approved and implemented.

The motion passed with Reps. Becker, King, Moss and Litvack voting in opposition.

MOTION: Sen. Hillyard moved to approve the following one-time General Fund sources for use in fiscal years 2007 or 2008: Industrial Assistance Fund set-aside - \$1,408,600; Tourism Marketing Performance Fund estimate reduction - \$6,000,000.

The motion passed unanimously.

MOTION: Sen. Hillyard moved to authorize legislative staff to prepare the "Current Fiscal Year Supplemental Appropriations Act" (S.B. 1), the "New Fiscal Year Supplemental Appropriations Act" (H.B. 150), and "Amendments to the Minimum School Program Budget" (H.B. 160) based upon actions of the Executive Appropriations Committee to date. Staff, in consultation with the Co-Chairs of the Executive Appropriations Committee and bill sponsors, is hereby authorized to make any technical and non-substantive corrections as necessary. In preparation of the various appropriations bills, the Legislative Fiscal Analyst is authorized to make adjustments between funding sources and fiscal years in order to balance the overall budget.

The motion passed unanimously.

Rep. King stated that he had some concerns regarding this motion and would consider the issues over the weekend. He also stated that he may take the option of amending these bills on the floor of the House.

MOTION: Sen. Hillyard moved to approve the fees listed on pages 2-1 to 2-20 of the tan "Consolidated Motions" sheet dated February 23, 2007.

The motion passed unanimously.

3. Other Committee Business

Rep. Becker, representing the minority caucus perspective, expressed appreciation to the Senate and staff for the excellent working relationship that exists. He stated that he felt both listened to the priorities of the minority legislators, and he appreciated the ability of all to interact to find the best solutions for all constituents.

Co-Chair Bigelow stated that this is a long, difficult process. The Senate and House are made up of a lot of people with very strong ideas and beliefs and opinions about what is best to do. The challenge is to try and work through those opinions to come up with a reasonably good budget.

MOTION: Co-Chair Hillyard moved to adjourn.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:05 p.m.

Minutes reported by Bonnie Brinton and Norda Shepard, Committee Secretaries.

Sen. Lyle W. Hillyard, Co-Chair

Rep. Ron Bigelow, Co-Chair